

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 6, 2005

As doctors have come to rely more and more on drug therapies to treat chronic health conditions, the amount of money patients spend on prescription drugs have increased significantly. As a result, many seniors who rely on Medicare as their primary health coverage have had difficulty keeping up with the costs associated with the drugs their doctors prescribe to them to stay healthy. I'm pleased to say that, beginning in January 2006, Medicare recipients will be offered insurance coverage for prescription drugs. While most covered under Medicare will likely have to pay a monthly premium, those with limited income and resources could receive this coverage free of cost.

Medicare has developed several prescription drug plans for seniors to choose from, and the US Department of Health and Human Services has initiated an ambitious nationwide outreach effort, to ensure that all Medicare recipients have all the information they need to choose a prescription drug plan that works best for them.

- M O R E -

MOTION

BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

I believe that we should do all we can to ensure that Medicare recipients in this County – especially seniors – have access to the information they need on this very important issue.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE:

1. That the Chief Administrative Officer work with the Director of the Department of Health Services and the Interim Director of the Department of Community and Senior Services, in consultation with 211 LA County, to ensure that 211 operators have all appropriate information available and on hand to assist seniors effectively with the prescription drug benefit program;
2. That the Departments of Health Services and Community and Senior Services work with the US Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the County Commission on Aging, to explore further ways of enhancing outreach to seniors about the Medicare prescription drug plan, and;
3. That the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Health Services and the Interim Director of Community and Senior Services provide a report back to this Board in 45 days as to progress made.

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